IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: L. Di Nola Baron
ROBERT A. SCOTT ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 1615
Application No.: 09/836,627)
:
Filed: April 17, 2001)
:
For: ENTERIC AND COLONIC)
DELIVERY USING HPMC :
CAPSULES)

D/13
ADP
6/9/03

Date: May 14, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This is a Response to the Office Action dated November 22, 2002 and is being submitted with a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time and the appropriate fee extending the date for a response to May 22, 2003. Should an additional fee be due, please charge Deposit Account Number 23, 0455. In view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4 after the paragraph ending on line 14, please delete the following paragraph:

~~In one embodiment of the present invention, the coating may be applied separately to empty HPMC capsule body and cap. In another embodiment the HPMC capsule body is coated with an insoluble polymer and the cap is enteric or colonic coated. In another embodiment, two equal HPMC capsule halves are filled with a caplet. In another embodiment of the present invention, a coating is applied separately to equal empty HPMC capsule halves. a stomach resistant coating may be applied to HPMC capsules having a sealing on the gap between capsule body and cap. In another embodiment, one half of the capsule is enteric coated and the other half is colonic coated. Alternatively, one half of the capsule may be coated with an insoluble polymer and the other half with an enteric or colonic coating. In another embodiment, a stomach resistant coating is applied to HPMC capsules having a first coating of a water soluble polyvinyl alcohol. The HPMC capsule may be coated with a film which is non-dissolving at pH < 3 to 4 and dissolving at pH>5.5. The HPMC content of the capsule shell may be in the range of from 10 to 90% by weight.~~